

A NEW INVADER OF INSECT COLLECTIONS OF
EASTERN CANADA, *TROGODERMA PARABILE*
BEAL (COLEOPTERA: DERMESTIDAE)

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In the Spring of 1959, a heavy infestation of *Trogoderma parabile* Beal was accidentally discovered in a wasp's nest housed at Montreal University. The species, identified by the author, using Beal's key for *Trogoderma* of economic importance (Beal, 1956), was present in the larval stage only and fed on dead wasp remains (larvae, adults) in the nest. This constitutes a first record of *T. parabile* in Eastern Canada and its presence in a wasp's nest is a first record of this feeding site for the species.

T. parabile, originally described and reported by Beal (1954), as infesting stored grain in California, was first found in Canada by Liscombe in Alberta (Loschiavo, in Litt.) and later by Brooks (1958) in Saskatchewan. Loschiavo (1960) has studied the life history and behaviour of this insect.

The most probable introduction of the pest at the University occurred in the Spring of 1955. At that time, a sample of infested flour received for examination from a warehouse in Montreal contained larvae of *Trogoderma*. These were placed in a plastic vial stoppered with a fibrous cork, for rearing, and left unattended for a time. A subsequent examination of the vial revealed that the edge of the fibrous stopper had been gnawed out by larvae escaping for transformation. Within the vial no living specimens were to be found. Adults emerging from transformed escaped larvae eventually found their way to the wasp's nest and over a period of nearly four years developed into the heavy infestation discovered in 1959.

During the winter of 1960 a few *T. parabile* were again observed, this time feeding on pinned specimens of beetles in cardboard boxes, and indications were that the pest had come from the original colony from the wasp's nest. From February 15 to March 30, 1961, adults were seen, one or two at a time, on walls, furniture, and windows (attempting to escape) in the room housing insects in paper envelopes; an inspection of the containers in May and June of that year revealed extensive injury to stored specimens by *T. parabile*.

It was observed from a culture on hand that at room temperature *T. parabile* completes two generations a year. Individual specimens can complete the entire larval stage on insects contained in envelopes, leaving these just for transformation much like other dermestids, e.g., *Perimegatoma vespulae* Milliron (Robert, 1956). Larvae are so well concealed within the host body that a thorough inspection of dried specimens stored in envelopes does not always reveal the presence of *T. parabile*.

Attempts at extermination of the pest were made by placing in insect boxes large quantities of para-dichlorobenzene crystals, then sealing the containers with thick paper. The results although encouraging are incomplete. A few larvae escaped unnoticed at the time the crystals were being placed in the boxes and adults which subsequently emerged from these

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laid their eggs outside the containers. Also, a few boxes were inadvertently left untreated. As a result, as many as a dozen adults were recovered in November and December 1961. It appears that control of this dangerous museum pest can be obtained through prevention measures, but eradication measures like fumigation are preferable. The highly adaptable nature of *T. parabile* and the fact that at room temperature it can complete two generations a year make this pest a most important economic species of insect collections.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES ON NEARCTIC ACANTHOCININI (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)

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After the paper dealing with the North American Acanthocinini² was in press, additional material was received from the U. S. National Museum, through the courtesy of Mr. George B. Vogt, and from Dr. H. F. Strohecker of the University of Miami. Thanks to the cooperation of these gentlemen, the status of two members of the tribe can be further clarified.

Leptostylus vogti Dillon

Upon examination of a series of *Leptostylus gibbulosus* Bates from Venezuela, the type locality, it became apparent that *L. vogti* Dillon is a subspecies of that species, a relationship not discernible from published descriptions. Furthermore, studies of specimens from intervening areas revealed a sharing of characteristics with the forms at the extremes of the range and these are therefore considered to be intergrades. The two races may be characterized briefly as follows:

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² L. S. Dillon. 1956. The Nearctic Components of the tribe Acanthocinini. Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer., 49: 134-167, 207-235, 332-355, 3 pl.
